

Message Text

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63-62

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AF-04 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03

PRS-01 ACDA-10 SCI-03 AEC-05 RSR-01 /078 W

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R 311817Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7193

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12582

LIMDIS

E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: TECHN, SF, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN URANIUM
PROCESS

REF: A. BONN 12174, B. PRETORIA 2999

L. NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED REFEELS ARE NOT RPT NOT YET
COMPLETE. FRG OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE
IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY HAS
PROHIBITED KARLSRUHE NUCLEAR CENTER (GESELLSCHAFT FUER
KERNFORSCHUNG, GFK) AND ITS PERSONNEL FROM PARTICIPATING
IN ANY WAY IN REPORTED STEAG COOPERATION WITH SOUTH
AFRICA IN FIELD OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT. TECHMIN HAS
ALSO MADE IT CLEAR TO GFK THAT FRG WOULD NOT RPT NOT
APPROVE LICENSE OF JET NOZZLE URANIUM ENRICHMENT
TECHNOLOGY FOR USE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. FRG OFFICIAL NOTED THAT STEAG, A PRIVATE FIRM,
COULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND
PERHAPS PROVIDE SOME UNCLASSIFIED DATA ABOUT JET NOZZLE
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PROCESS. STEAG HAS BEEN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF JET NOZZLE

DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1970 AND HAS PLEDGED DM 20 MILLION DURING PERIOD 1971-75. HOWEVER, STEAG COULD NOT LICENSE JET NOZZLE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF DR. BECKER AT GFK. FRG OFFICIAL DOUBTED THAT STEAG HAD ENOUGH REAL "KNOW HOW" TO MAKE THEM AN ATTRACTIVE PARTNER FOR SOUTH AFRICA NOW THAT BECKER AND HIS INSTITUTE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT.

3. FRG MADE PARA 1 DECISION ON PURELY POLITICAL GROUNDS BASED ON OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL POLICIES. IN 1972 FRG WITHDREW ITS SUPPORT OF GERMAN URANIUM PROSPECTING EFFORTS IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR SAME REASON.

4. OUR SOURCE CONSIDERS INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FRG DECISION TO BE VERY SENSITIVE. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THIS REPORT BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED AND USED FOR BACKGROUND ONLY.

HILLENBRAND

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